

Remarks:

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated May 3, 2007.

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 5-20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29 and 30 were pending in the application. Claims 5-8, 18-20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29 and 30 have been allowed. Claims 15-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 9-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis (US 4,314,159). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Nevertheless, in the interest of furthering prosecution on the merits to issuance of a patent, applicants have amended claim 10 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 15 (including the subject matter of intermediate claim 11) in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 12-14 and 16 have been amended to depend from amended claim 10. Claim 17 depends from claim 16, and thus also ultimately depends from amended claim 10. Claims 9, 11 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice.

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Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. In particular, applicants believe that claims 5-8, 10, 12-14, 16-20, 22, 23, 26 and 29-30 are in accordance with the Examiner's previous indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

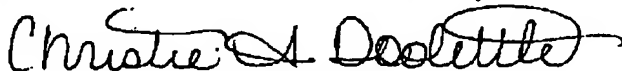
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner S. Chawan, Group Art Unit 2624, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on August 3, 2007.



Christie A. Doolittle

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